

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 7, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1598**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Battin**  
**(Coauthor: Assembly Member Strom-Martin)**

February 26, 1999

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An act to amend Section 3744 of the Public Resources Code, relating to geothermal resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1598, as amended, Battin. Geothermal resources: regulation.

Under existing law, the operation of geothermal resources wells is subject to orders and other regulatory and enforcement actions taken by the State Oil and Gas Supervisor.

This bill would, notwithstanding specified provisions giving the supervisor specific regulatory and enforcement powers regarding geothermal resources, authorize the supervisor to make *formal or emergency* orders or undertake ~~such other actions as~~ *any other action that* the supervisor determines to be necessary for the protection of life, health, property, or natural resources, if the supervisor determines that an emergency exists.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 3744 of the Public Resources  
2 Code is amended to read:

3 3744. (a) Within 30 days from the date of service of  
4 an order made pursuant to Section 3743, the owner or  
5 operator shall commence in good faith the work ordered  
6 and continue it until completion. If the work has not been  
7 commenced and continued to completion, the supervisor  
8 shall appoint necessary agents who shall enter the  
9 premises and perform the work. An accurate account of  
10 the expenditures shall be kept. Any amount so expended  
11 shall constitute a lien against the real or personal property  
12 of the owner or operator upon which the work is done and  
13 the lien shall have the force, effect, and priority of a  
14 judgment lien pursuant to Section 3772.

15 (b) Notwithstanding Sections 3741, 3743, or 3755, if the  
16 supervisor determines that an emergency exists, the  
17 supervisor may make ~~orders or undertake such other~~  
18 ~~actions as~~ *formal or emergency orders or undertake any*  
19 *other action that* the supervisor determines to be  
20 necessary for the protection of life, health, property, or  
21 natural resources.

